

Private and Family Worship

For use during the week of January 12

Read: Matthew 2:1–23

Reflect on these questions and discuss them with your family:

Understanding the passage

- How would you describe the basic message of this passage to someone else?
- Why do you think this passage was written? What did the author hope to accomplish in the minds and hearts of the readers?

Sing this Hymn: “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

You can find the music here: bit.ly/wtkooalryics

John Henry Hopkins wrote this Epiphany carol in 1857 and first published it in his own *Carols, Hymns, and Songs* in 1863. There are five stanzas and a refrain. The first stanza describes the journey of the magi following the star. The next three stanzas elaborate on the significance of each gift, and the final stanza summarizes the song. The only significant textual variation is the last line of the fifth stanza, which is given several renditions with the same basic meaning: the whole creation echoes the joy that Christ has come.

Pray

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into His Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior; who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

[from *The Book of Common Prayer*]